

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SP-02 PA-01
ICA-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 L-01 TRSE-00 INRE-00
/035 W

-----020805 221541Z /75/62

O R 212035Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5065

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 3420

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)S

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, PINS, DR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT ANTONIO GUZMAN

1. THE AMBASSADOR CALLED THIS MORNING ON PRESIDENT-ELECT
ANTONIO GUZMAN AT THE LATTER'S REQUEST.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TO SOLICIT
THE AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS ON THE
DOMINICAN SCENE. WHILE IT WAS NOT MADE EXPLICIT, IT WAS
APPARENT FROM GUZMAN'S COMMENTS THAT HE WAS UNDER PRESSURE
FROM ELEMENTS OF THE PRD TO MAKE STATEMENTS WHICH HE
CONSIDERED UNSETTLING AND THAT HE WANTED TO TAKE
EMBASSY ASSESSMENTS INTO ACCOUNT BEFORE A MEDIA APPEARANCE
SCHEDULED FOR THE AFTERNOON. HIS OWN EVALUATION CONTINUED TO BE
THAT A CALM AND UNRUFFLED APPROACH WAS BOTH WARRANTED AND
NECESSARY.

3. THE AMBASSADOR WENT OVER THE MAJOR ELEMENTS OF THE
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SITUATION: BALAGUER HAD STATED TO THE AMBASSADOR HIS INTENTION
TO TURN OVER THE ADMINISTRATION ON AUGUST 16 AND TO RETIRE.
THANKS TO THE EFFORTS MADE BY GUZMAN HIMSELF, AS WELL AS TO
PRESSURES WHICH HAD BEEN PLACED ON THEM BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND
INTERNATIONALLY FOLLOWING MAY 17, THE MILITARY APPEARED TO HAVE
RECEDED AS A THREAT AND COULD PROBABLY BE EXPECTED TO GO ALONG
WITH THE CHANGE IN REGIME AT THIS TIME. THE PROBLEM OF THE ELECTION

CHALLENGES WAS SOMEWHAT DISTURBING, MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE WAY IT WAS KEEPING ALL PARTIES STIRRED UP AND WAS AFFECTING THE ECONOMY, BUT HERE PRESIDENT BALAGUER HAD MADE CLEAR THAT SUCH CHALLENGES DID NOT APPLY TO THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS BUT RATHER TO THE RESULTS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES AND FOR SENATORIAL AND DEPUTY SEATS.

4. GUZMAN'S ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION PARALLELED OURS. HE SAID THAT BALAGUER HAD GIVEN HIM THE SAME ASSURANCES WITH REGARD TO THE TURNOVER AND THAT HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT BALAGUER WAS TO SOME EXTENT THE PRISONER OF THE DEMANDS OF THOSE AROUND HIM WHO FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO ADJUST TO THE CONCEPT OF DEFEAT. GUZMAN SEEMED TO BE VIRTUALLY UNCONCERNED ABOUT THE PRESIDENTIAL TURNOVER. HE ALSO FELT THAT THE MILITARY WERE NOW UNDER SUBSTANTIAL CONTROL AND IN GENERAL READY TO ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION. HE NOTED THE EXCEPTION TO THIS IN THE CASE OF "ONE OR TWO GENERALS" (READ MAJOR GENERAL NEIT NIVAR SEIJAS) BUT GUZMAN SEEMED TO FEEL THAT THE LATTER WERE NO LONGER A RELEVANT ELEMENT IN THE OVERALL POWER EQUATION. ON THE QUESTION OF THE ELECTORAL CHALLENGES, GUZMAN SAID HE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY INFORMAL WORD THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED THAT THE CHILEAN COMPUTER SPECIALISTS BROUGHT IN BY THE JCE HAD REPORTED NOTHING ABNORMAL IN THE MAKEUP OF THE COMPUTERIZED REGISTRATION LISTS. HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE JUNTA WOULD PRONOUNCE ITSELF IN A RELATIVELY BRIEF PERIOD OF TIME. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THE SEVERE DAMAGE
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THAT WAS BEING DONE TO THE ECONOMY IN THE INTERIM.

4. THE AMBASSADOR TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO NOTE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD TO HAVE CONTINUING CONTACT WITH THE PEOPLE WHO WERE WORKING WITH GUZMAN ON ECONOMIC MATTERS. HE MENTIONED THE IMPORTANCE FOR THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC OF CURRENT EFFORTS OF THE CARIBBEAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP AND THE PROBLEMS, ON WHICH BALAGUER HAD ALREADY BRIEFED GUZMAN, RELATED TO THE DOMINICAN DEBT SITUATION. GUZMAN SAID HE WOULD ASK HIS PEOPLE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY'S E/C SECTION AND WITH USAID FOR AN ON-GOING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

5. IN VIEW OF GUZMAN'S PREVIOUSLY-SHOWN CONCERN THAT THE U.S. MILITARY MIGHT BE OPERATING ON A DIFFERENT WAVE LENGTH FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE US GOVERNMENT, THE AMBASSADOR ALSO REITERATED THE INTEGRATED NATURE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S POLICY FORMULATION AND EXECUTION PROCESS AS REGARDS THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

6. GUZMAN EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE SUPPORT WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED FROM MANY COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE AND

AGAIN NOTED THAT THE ROLE OF THE U.S. AND PRESIDENT CARTER
PERSONALLY HAD BEEN A CRUCIAL ONE IN FENDING OFF EARLY EFFORTS TO
OVERTURN THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS AS WELL AS IN THE PERIOD
OF CONTINUED UNCERTAINTY THAT HAS FOLLOWED.

7. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT HIS VISIT COULD NOT BE HELD
QUIET FROM THE PRESS. HE AND GUZMAN AGREED THAT ANY
PRESS INQUIRIES WOULD BE MET WITH A STATEMENT WHICH WOULD
INCLUDE THE POINTS THAT (A) THE MEETING HAD BEEN HELD
AT THE REQUEST OF GUZMAN FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS; (B) THAT
THESE EXCHANGES OF VIEWS WERE NORMAL WITH AN INCOMING ADMINIS-
TRATION; (C) THAT THE MEETING WAS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE
CERTIFICATION OF THE ELECTION BOARD; AND (D) IT WAS IN LINE
WITH THE CONTACTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN PRESIDENT
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BALAGUER AND MR. GUZMAN. AS IT TURNED OUT, A REPORTER
FROM THE LOCAL TABLOID "LA NOTICIA" WAS WAITING WHEN THE
AMBASSADOR EMERGED FROM THE GUZMAN HOUSE AND THE ABOVE LINE WAS
USED.
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